



Yes Youth Can Nairobi

What is Yes Youth Can Nairobi?

Yes Youth Can Nairobi has empowered youth to participate effectively in political leadership and governance, build entrepreneurial skills to engage in livelihood activities and enhance their socio-economic base.



Photo Credit: USAID/ Jeffrey Karang'ae

USAID/Kenya Mission Director Karen Freeman (center) joins youth at their peace campaign event in Nairobi.

Who implements Yes Youth Can Nairobi?

Cooperative League of the United States of America (CLUSA)

Participatory Approaches for Integrated Development (PAFID)

Nairobi County Youth Bunge Forum and village bunge(Parliaments).

Project Duration and Budget

February 2013 – May 2014

\$1.9 million

What does the Yes Youth Can Nairobi do?

Yes Youth Can Nairobi gives youth the skills to govern their own programs, and constructively engage with key government and community actors regarding issues that affect them.

How is Yes Youth Can Nairobi making a difference?

Yes Youth Can Nairobi is increasing public awareness of youth priorities through public *barazas* (meetings), forums and media engagements. The project also encourages youth participation in community development initiatives and structures.

Yes Youth Can promotes youth access to leadership and effective participation in governance. The Youth have formed community organizations and registered with the Government of Kenya. This enables the youth to partner with government entities, foundations, other donors, or the private sector to implement a range of community service and economic development activities. The *bunge* movement has revived the spirit of *harambee* (working together) and inculcated volunteerism and leadership in a new generation of Kenyans. Youth are working together to promote a youth agenda.

Yes Youth Can Nairobi prepares youth for employment, entrepreneurship and livelihood activities through training, participatory learning and action. The Nairobi county board oversees village level activities and creates networks and linkages among *bunges*. Some chapters have already received loans from banks or the USAID-funded Tahidi youth fund.

The Nairobi youth network implements peace activities, such as theater, peace concerts, sports for peace and peace demonstrations.

Some county board members and village presidents sit in the district peace committees. The network created by Yes Youth Can has nationwide coverage allowing members to monitor peace and co-existence right from the village to national level. The peace monitoring system uses social media and mobile technology and links to Government of Kenya ministries, development partners, and private sectors.

What key challenges does Yes Youth Can Nairobi face?

Not all of the Nairobi *bunges* have completed the formal registration processes necessary to receive grants.

Yes Youth Can Nairobi in action

Kings of Kibera

Kings of Kibera is a street-children support project located in the heart of Kibera. The project, started in 2009, supports kids who are either orphaned or abandoned within the slum. The kids began by living like a big family, sharing the little food and clothing they could get by picking and selling scrap metal and waste paper.

By the age of six, most had experienced physical and sexual abuses, death and forceful exposure to drug abuse, especially glue sniffing, at the hands of older youth.

Just like any other child, the kids enjoy playing soccer, reading and drawing and had great ambitions of becoming teachers, pilots and doctors.

The rehabilitated street kids also help other street children and currently they have 10 boys and 1 girl (aged between 8-14years) under their care and support.

The kids have been mentored by Joseph Djemba, who knows every detail of slum life, he himself being a former street kid and president of the Kings of Kibera chapter under the Yes Youth Can Nairobi program.

The initiative currently has a membership of 37 youth, (27 males and 10 females.)

The project has designed five programs that seek to elevate the lives of youth and community at large in Kibera. They provide the members with housing, health facilities, education, social welfare and social integration opportunities.

Their goal is to create a conducive environment for street children to live in.

For more information:

Christine Pagen, Acting Director
USAID/Kenya

Office of Education and Youth

Tel: +254 20 862 2755

Email: cpagen@usaid.gov

Pamela Wesonga

USAID/Kenya

Office of Education and Youth

Email: pwesonga@usaid.gov

Joyce Wafula

Chief of Party

Yes Youth Can Nairobi

Email: jwafula@clusakenya.org



Photo: YYC Nairobi

The rescue center dormitory room established and managed by the Kings of Kibera.

Updated March 2013